

CLAIMS

1. An information processor comprising:

means for detecting that a terminal having a content stored therein is connected to the apparatus itself; and

means for starting up a program which reads contents-related data from the terminal and controls the display to provide a display corresponding to the data, when the terminal is connected to the apparatus.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

means for detecting, when the detecting means detects that the terminal is connected to the apparatus itself, setting information recorded in the terminal and indicative of whether a content is to be checked out; and

means for controlling the communications with the terminal to check in a first content from the terminal and check out a second content stored in the apparatus itself to the terminal, on the basis of the setting information in the terminal when the detecting means detects that the terminal is connected to the apparatus itself.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the detecting means detects that a recording medium having contents recorded therein is connected to the apparatus itself; and

the start-up means starts up the program which reads contents-related data from the recording medium and controls the display to provide a display corresponding to

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the data, when the recording medium having contents recorded therein is connected to the information processor.

4. An information processing method comprising steps of:

detecting that a terminal having a content stored therein is connected to an information processor in which the method is effected; and

starting up a program which reads contents-related data from the terminal and controls the display to provide a display corresponding to the data.

5. The method according to claim 4, further comprising steps of:

detecting, when it is detected at the detecting step that the terminal is connected to the information processor itself, setting information recorded in the terminal and indicative of whether a content recorded in the terminal is to be checked out; and

controlling the communications with the terminal to check in a first content from the terminal and to check out a second content recorded in the information processor itself to the terminal, on the basis of the setting information in the terminal when it is detected at the detecting step that the terminal is connected to the information processor itself.

6. The method according to claim 4, wherein:

at the detecting step, it is detected that the recording medium having contents recorded therein is connected to the information processor; and

at the start-up step, the program which reads contents-related data from the recording medium and controls the display to provide a display corresponding to the

data, is started up when at the detecting step, it is detected that the recording medium is connected to the information processor.

7. A program storage medium having stored therein a computer-readable program for use in the above information processing apparatus and method, the program comprising steps of:

detecting that a terminal having a content stored therein is connected to an information processor in which the method is effected; and

starting up a program which reads contents-related data from the terminal and controls the display to provide a display corresponding to the data, when at the detecting step, it is detected that the terminal is connected to the information processor.

8. The program storage medium according to claim 7, the program further comprising steps of:

detecting, when it is detected at the detecting step that the terminal is connected to the apparatus itself, setting information recorded in the terminal and indicative of whether a content recorded in the terminal is to automatically be checked out; and

controlling the communications with the terminal to check in a first content from the terminal and to check out a second content recorded in the apparatus itself to the terminal, on the basis of the setting information in the terminal when it is detected at the detecting step that the terminal is connected to the apparatus itself.

9. The program storage medium according to claim 7, wherein:

at the detecting step, it is detected that the recording medium having contents

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recorded therein is connected to the information processor; and

at the start-up step, the program which reads contents-related data from the recording medium and controls the display to provide a display corresponding to the data, is started up when at the detecting step, it is detected that the recording medium is connected to the information processor.

10. An information processor comprising:

means for setting whether a content is to automatically be checked out to a terminal connected to the apparatus itself;

means for detecting that a terminal having a first content stored therein is connected to the apparatus itself; and

means for controlling the communications with the terminal to check in a first content from the terminal and to check out a second content stored in the apparatus itself to the terminal, on the basis of a setting made by the setting means when the setting means detects that the terminal is connected to the apparatus.

11. The apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising means for

detecting, when the detecting means detects that the terminal is connected to the apparatus, setting information recorded in the terminal and indicative of whether a content is to automatically be checked out;

when the detecting means detects that the terminal is connected to the apparatus, the communications controlling means controlling the communications with the terminal to check in a first content from the terminal and check out a second content

recorded in the apparatus itself to the terminal on the basis of the setting information in the terminal.

12. The apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising means for a filter setting information detecting means for detecting filtering data intended for use to select a desired content recorded in the terminal when the detecting means detects that the terminal is connected to the apparatus;

when the detecting means detects that the terminal is connected to the apparatus, the communications controlling means controlling the communications with the terminal to check in the first content from the terminal and check out the second content recorded in the apparatus itself to the terminal on the basis of the filter setting information in the terminal.

13. An information processing method comprising steps of:

setting whether a content is to automatically be checked out to a terminal connected to an information processor itself in which the method is effected;

detecting that a terminal having a first content stored therein is connected to the information processor itself; and

controlling the communications with the terminal to check in a first content from the terminal and to check out a second content stored in the information processor itself to the terminal, on the basis of a setting made at the setting step when at the setting step, it is detected that the terminal is connected to the information processor.

14. The method according to claim 13, further comprising a step of detecting,

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when at the detecting step, it is detected that the terminal is connected to the information processor, setting information recorded in the terminal and indicative of whether a content is to automatically be checked out;

when at the detecting step, it is detected that the terminal is connected to the information processor, the communications with the terminal being controlled to check in a first content from the terminal and check out a second content recorded in the information processor itself to the terminal, on the basis of the setting information in the terminal when at the detecting step, it is detected that the terminal is connected to the information processor.

15. A program storage medium having stored therein a program to be used in an information processing apparatus and method, the program comprising steps of:

setting whether a content is to automatically be checked out to a terminal connected to an information processor itself in which the method is effected;

detecting that a terminal having a first content stored therein is connected to the information processor itself; and

controlling the communications with the terminal to check in a first content from the terminal and to check out a second content stored in the information processor itself to the terminal, on the basis of a setting made at the setting step when at the setting step, it is detected that the terminal is connected to the information processor.

16. The program storage medium according to claim 15, further comprising a step of detecting, when at the detecting step, it is detected that the terminal is

connected to the information processor, setting information recorded in the terminal and indicative of whether a content is to automatically be checked out;

when at the detecting step, it is detected that the terminal is connected to the information processor, the communications with the terminal being controlled to check in a first content from the terminal and check out a second content recorded in the information processor itself to the terminal, on the basis of the setting information in the terminal when at the detecting step, it is detected that the terminal is connected to the information processor.